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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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RUEHAL/AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA 5866
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 4285
RUFHOL/AMEMBASSY BONN 2990
RUEHM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 1615
RUEHM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 1803
RUEHJ/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 7131
RUEHKH/AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM 9104
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0130
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 9748
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 4846
RUDKKR/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 5536
RUEHRH/USELO RIYADH 3339
RUEHAD/USINT BAGHDAD 4551
RUEHDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 9576
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TUNIS FOR FSI

USCINCCENT FOR POLAD

ROME PASS TO MFO

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PREL, ECON, PINR, EG, US, IS, XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS REVIEW FOR JANUARY 16, 1984

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1. HIGHLIGHTS

-- ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE GETS UNDERWAY
-- INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR TRANSPORT WORKERS AND NEW BUSES
- FOR CAIRO
-- EVENTS IN LEBANON AND THE RUMSFELD MISSION
-- REPORT ON EGYPT'S PETROLEUM OUTPUT
END HIGHLIGHTS.

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

2. ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE. ALL MAJOR DAILIES GIVE FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT TO THE JANUARY 16 OPENING OF THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN MOROCCO. THE PRESS HIGHLIGHTS THE ABSENCE FROM THE GATHERING OF THE SYRIAN, LIBYAN, AND IRANIAN HEADS OF STATE, DESPITE THE "INTENSE EFFORTS" OF HOST KING HASSAN TO CONVINCE THEM TO ATTEND. REVIEWING THE CONFERENCE AGENDA DRAWN UP AT PRELIMINARY MEETINGS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE PAPERS POINT TO DIVISIONS AMONG SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS ON THE ISSUES OF AFGHANISTAN, THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, AND THE LEBANESE SITUATION.

3. LEBANON. IN ITS LEAD STORY, AKHBAR REPORTS THE CLOSURE OF BEIRUT'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR THREE HOURS ON JANUARY 15, AS THE AIRPORT AREA AND USMC POSITIONS THERE CAME UNDER INTENSE SHELLING. THE PAPER DESCRIBES, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IN LEBANON JANUARY 15 AS GENERALLY CALM, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MINOR SKIRMISHING BETWEEN THE LEBANESE ARMY AND DRUZE MILITIAS.

-- CITING "U.S. ADMINISTRATION SOURCES", ALL PAPERS REPORT THAT AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD IS GEARING UP FOR AN "URGENT SHUTTLE TOUR OF LEBANON, ISRAEL, SAUDI ARABIA, AND SYRIA" DURING HIS CURRENT VISIT TO THE REGION, AS PART OF U.S. EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE LEBANESE CRISIS.

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ACCORDING TO "WELL-INFORMED SOURCES IN BEIRUT," SYRIA REJECTED PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD BY RUMSFELD DURING HIS LATEST TRIP TO DAMASCUS, AIMED AT SECURING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SYRIAN AND ISRAELI FORCES FROM LEBANON.

4. FRANCO-EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVE. AHRAM CARRIES A STATEMENT BY MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS DR. BOUTROS GHALI, FOLLOWING HIS JUST-CONCLUDED VISIT TO FRANCE AND SEVERAL AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THAT "EGYPT AND FRANCE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING TO REVIVE THEIR JOINT PEACE PLAN" IN THE UNSC.

DOMESTIC NEWS

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5. PROGRAM FOR MASS TRANSPORTATION. GUMHURIYA'S LEAD ITEM JANUARY 16 COVERS GOE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES. THE MEASURES, UNVEILED BY PM FUAD MOHIEDDIN AND OTHER SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS JANUARY 15, INCLUDE A MONETARY INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR OUTSTANDING TRANSPORT WORKERS, ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND WORKER EDUCATION CENTERS, AND THE ADDITION OF FOUR HUNDRED BUSES IN JUNE 1984 TO CAIRO'S FLEET.

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6. EGYPT'S OIL PRODUCTION. ALL PAPERS COVER THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, AHMED EZZ EL-DIN HILAL, THAT EGYPT IS CURRENTLY PRODUCING 38.5 MILLION TONS OF OIL ANNUALLY, COMPARED WITH ONLY EIGHT MILLION TONS IN 1974. THE MINISTER PROJECTED EGYPT'S PRODUCTION IN THE YEAR 2000 AT 65 MILLION TONS. HE WENT ON TO NOTE THAT DOMESTIC PETROLEUM CONSUMPTION AMOUNTS TO 20 MILLION TONS ANNUALLY, VERSUS SEVEN MILLION TONS IN 1974.

7. U.S. VIP VISITS TO EGYPT. ALL PAPERS NOTE PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S JANUARY 15 RECEPTION OF CODEL GEPhARDT AND CONGRESSMAN DANNEMEYER (OF CODEL HALEY) AND INCLUDE PHOTOS OF THE VISITORS WITH THE PRESIDENT. ALSO MENTIONED IS THE MEETING OF U.S. ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF, GENERAL JOHN NICKHAM, WITH GENERAL IBRAHIM AL-ORABI, CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES.

EDITORIALS

8. ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. IN ITS JANUARY 16 COMMENTARY, AHRAM FOCUSES ON ISRAEL'S TROUBLED ECONOMY, WHICH, THE PAPER ALLEGES, STEMS FROM THAT COUNTRY'S EXPANSIONISTIC FOREIGN POLICY. STATING THAT A GOVERNMENT SHOULD HANDLE AN ECONOMIC CRISIS LIKE THAT FACING ISRAEL BY REINING IN ITS ACTIVITIES ABROAD, THE PAPER DECLares THAT IF A COUNTRY HAS "ILLEGITIMATE AMBITIONS AND ARTIFICIAL PRESTIGE," IT WILL TRY TO SOLVE ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS "OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS." APPLYING THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT TO THE ISRAELIS, AHRAM CONTENDS THAT "ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC CRISIS IS THE PRODUCT OF ITS ENCROACHMENTS" ON THE TERRITORY OF OTHERS, "WHETHER FOR SECURITY OR OTHER REASONS." THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE WARNING THAT ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS MAY PROMPT IT TO RESORT TO "HARSHER AND MORE BITTER FOREIGN ADVENTURES."

9. SEE USIS SEPTEL FOR BLOCK QUOTES FROM MOUSSA SABRI'S HIGHLY CRITICAL FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY IN JANUARY 16 AKHBAR ON COLUMBIA PICTURES' TV FILM "SADAT," ENTITLED "THEIR EVILS NEVER STOP." VELIOTES

END OF MESSAGE

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